

New River Chapter MOAA Meeting Minutes 21 March 2015

Call to Order: Chapter President Doug Ehrhardt called the meeting to order at 1800 hours on 21 April 2015 at the Winner's Circle in Jefferson.

Members Present: Doug Ehrhardt, President; Charles Knapp, 1st Vice President/Programs; Ken Lynn, Secretary/Treasurer; Ron Wilsbach, Legislative Affairs Committee Chair; Lou Burge, Director at-large; Ron Schuette; Lee Eldreth; Steve Tucker; Don Goodhart; Karen Strickland; Linda Marsh; Bob Worley; Jim Doss; Mik Mickulan; Cathy Ehrhardt, member-spouse, Betty Schuette, member-spouse, Monica Madden-Lynn, member-spouse; Ann Burge, member-spouse; Bobbie Worley, member-spouse. Deanna Burleson, a new member, was in attendance as were guest Thaddeus "Al" Wheeler and his wife Patty.

New Business:

President's Discussion: Doug began the meeting by introducing new member Deanna Burleson and guest and potential member Thaddeus "Al" Wheeler and his wife Nancy. He gave a run-down on the state-level initiative where he participated with other NC Council members in meeting with legislators in Raleigh as part of National's "Stormin' the Hill" initiative. The Bailey-Patton Amendment was a big topic of discussion. He also reported on the efforts in Washington, DC. Doug updated the Board that the NC Council had won 14 Communication awards and our Chapter won for Unique Communication with our "We Are" poster. He then discussed the several open positions we have and the need to fill them: Membership Chair, At-Large Board Members, and Auxiliary Liaison. He also discussed the upcoming New River Marathon and how our participation at running one of the water stations earns us \$250 each year for the Scholarship Fund. Finally he announced we're moving the May Meeting forward to 12 May due to a conflict with the venue.

Guest Speaker: Charles introduced our speaker, John Reeves, of the Ashe County Centennial Celebration Committee who spoke on the centennial and showed a great video.

Special Presentation: Doug made a special presentation thanking Ron and Betty Schuette for their service as At-Large Director and Auxiliary Spouse Liaison.

Old/Unfinished/Recurring Business:

Chapter Budget/Dues Report: Chapter Treasurer Ken Lynn reported the Chapter's current cash balance on hand is: \$3,569.36. The balance on hand in the Scholarship fund is: \$12, 008.33. Since the March meeting it was discovered we hadn't paid our 2014 awarded scholarship as the student hadn't provided a mailing address for the bursar's office. That has since been rectified and the \$1,000.00 check mailed. Ken

has filed the Chapter's income tax form and is meeting with our accountant on 27 April to finalize the Scholarship Fund IRS filings.

Programs Committee Chair: Charles confirmed all programs for 2015 and there was some discussion of a venue change for the NC State Veteran Liaison presentation in July. The thinking at this point is to handle his presentation much like we did last year when Mike Hayden from MOAA National came; press conference, dinner with all local VSO commandants and a joint meeting with the High Country Chapter and all VSOs. Details to follow.

Scholarship Committee: Linda was not present but Ken and Doug announced the Scholarship Committee has awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship to Melisa Gonzales of Wilkes HS. No applications were made from either of the other two schools we support.

The Legislative Committee: Ron added to Doug's earlier discussion concerning the "Stormin' the Hill" efforts.

Membership Committee: Vacant.

Personal Affairs Committee: Barbara Sears was unable to attend.

Auxiliary Spouse Liaison: Vacant.

Veterans Recognition Program: Lou Burge reported that we're ready to recognize our fourth vet scheduled for Wednesday, 22 April.

Other Business:

High Country Veterans Coalition: Charles suggested using the July event to re-energize our efforts to formally stand-up the High Country Veterans Coalition.

50/50 Raffle: Charles Knapp won the raffle.

Adjournment: The president adjourned the meeting at 2010 hours.

Submitted by Ken Lynn, Secretary

Approved by Doug Ehrhardt, President